

Wake County Natural Areas Inventory

HODGES MILL CREEK GRANITIC FLATROCKS

Site Number: 21

Site Significance: County

Ownership: multiple private

Size: about 12 acres

Quadrangle: Knightdale

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: The site contains at least three separate granitic flatrocks, with one being several acres in size.

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS: The site lies between Temple Rock (on the east) and the Lake Mirl Granitic Flatrocks (on the west). Each of those sites lies less than a mile from the edge of this site.

SITE DESCRIPTION: A somewhat linear series of granitic flatrocks crops out on the south and west facing slopes above Hodges Mill Creek, in the vicinity of Watkins Road (SR 2227). One flatrock is perhaps 2 or 3 acres in size, making it one of the larger flatrocks in Wake County. However, a visit to the site in early spring 1987 revealed few granitic flatrock species present; no elf orpine (*Diamorpha smallii*) was noted. (This species would normally be visible by early spring). The forest surrounding the outcrops has mostly been cut-over in recent decades, particularly around the large flatrock. A considerable amount of fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) and beargrass (*Yucca filamentosa*) occurs in the woods adjacent to several flatrocks. The rocks have the potential for a wide array of plants characteristic of flatrocks, such as fameflower (*Talinum teretifolium*) and Small's portulaca (*Portulaca smallii*), which would not have been visible in early spring.

This site was not visited during the present inventory. Because most flatrocks re-surveyed during the 2002 inventory still retained their natural heritage values as compared with sites visited in the mid-1980's, the natural area is included here with the same significance (County) as reported in LeGrand (1987).

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT: The site is privately owned and exists in multiple tracts. This site is worthy of protection, and Costa (2001) indicates that Wake County is proposing a greenway corridor for Hodges Mill Creek, which could result in protection of the natural area. However, presently there is no protection for this site.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Granitic Flatrock

REFERENCES:

Costa, L. 2001. A Conservation Assessment for the Neuse River and Mark's Creek. Triangle Land Conservancy.

LeGrand, H.E., Jr. 1987. Inventory of the natural areas of Wake County, North Carolina.

Report to Triangle Land Conservancy, N.C. Natural Heritage Program, and Wake County